

FALCON NEWS



OCTOBER 2004

VOLUME 1

Welcome! This is a newsletter for those of us who have family members deployed to Kosovo with Task Force Falcon. This newsletter will be posted on the California National Guard website, and you will be able to access future newsletters there. The first two volumes are being provided in hard copy. We are anxious to give you news and referrals that will help make our 18 month deployment go smoothly. So welcome aboard!

FROM THE COMMANDER:

The Commander of Task Force Falcon is Brigadier General Bill Wade, II. The Deputy Commander Maneuver is Colonel Clay Bradfield. The Deputy Commander Support is Colonel Jake Van Gore. The Command Sgt Major is William Clark. "On behalf of the command team I want to tell the families that we will ensure that your soldiers are fully trained for the mission and prepared to perform peacekeeping duties. We will do everything within our power to bring them home safe and sound." Chief of Staff of Col(P) John Harrel.

Each month the command team will provide us with news from Kosovo about how the mission is going and what the highlight of their month was. They will also let us know what the coming month holds, and what our soldiers are experiencing.

LEGAL NOTES:

My name is Linda Harrel. I am a Judge Advocate General in the National Guard. The JAGs provide legal advice to soldiers. My husband is deploying to Kosovo with Task Force Falcon.. I am a lawyer, certified to practice law in the State of California, and I am familiar with some of the legal issues we will all face together as our soldiers deploy. I will select one or two legal issues a month, and discuss them in this column. Before our soldiers deployed they went through the Soldier Readiness Process "SRP" and given the opportunity to get a will, power of attorney and medical directive. It is important for you to know if your soldier got any of these documents. A power of attorney is a document that lets someone sign for someone else... to act as if they were that person, to accomplish certain things. You could use a power of attorney to register your soldier's vehicle with the Department of Motor Vehicles, and sign their tax return while they are gone. If you and your deploying soldier are on the same bank account, you can write checks on that account in your own name and you do not need a power of attorney. What should you do if a problem comes up while your soldier is deployed and you did not receive a power of attorney to handle this matter? Your soldier should see the JAG in Kosovo in order to get a power of attorney to handle whatever has come up..... Yes there are JAGs in Kosovo with Task Force Falcon! Send me your legal questions and I will answer them in the next Falcon News.

FAMILY SUPPORT IN YOUR LOCAL UNIT:

The National Guard has a very proactive family support program. The Chief of this program is Steve Read. Each local unit has a family readiness coordinator. If you have a problem that relates to your soldier's deployment your first contact should be to your

family support coordinator at your soldier's unit. Here is a list of some of our family support coordinators:

40th MP Co. Rosalba Selio (562) 686-4377

1-160th Julia Chen (714) 505-2433

578th EN BN Jennifer Jappel-Nobel HHC (310) 370-2996

49th MP BN Point of Contact: MSG Jon Wilson (925) 432-2759

Ask your deploying soldier who his unit family readiness coordinator is and get that number!

"Dear Doris" [MRW]

Hello! My name is Doris. My husband and I have survived deployment. (Why does the plumbing ALWAYS go out when they leave?) I know that you are already feeling stress, biting fingernails, binge eating, shopping sprees? What can you do to reduce some of the stress and worry you may be feeling? MAKE LISTS! Making a list of what you need to do will really help relieve the stress of the upcoming separation. What should you put on your list today? Do you have a power of attorney from your soldier? Do you have a copy of your soldier's orders? You will need lots of copies. Do you have a list of the names you will need to call for help: the plumber, the mechanic, babysitter, electrician? Do you know the bank where your soldier's pay is going to be deposited into? Do you know their unit, their social security number? Did you get a military ID card for you and the kids? Enrolled in Tri Care for health care? You can send mail to:

Fort Lewis, Washington

CMTC: (Germany)

Soldier's name

Soldier's name

Unit name

Unit name

P.O. Box 339546

KFOR 6B

Ft. Lewis, Wash. 98433

APO AE 09173

JUST FOR TEENS!

Hi! My name is CYRUS and for those of you who don't know me I am 17, in college, and for the last four years I have been working on the National Guard Teen Adventure Training Camp. The purpose of this program is not just for us to have fun but more importantly it's to have fun with other Guard youth. Why is this important? Like many of you my dad has been called up and will be deployed to Kosovo. There are many unique issues that come up during a deployment for a family and the best way to cope with them is to communicate with other Guard youth who unlike any other friends actually understand your unique issues. So you can check here for my two cents and if you want any information on the youth camp, just go onto the National Guard website, look under 40th ID(M), and hit the Falcon icon then hit "JUST FOR TEENS". By the way we are already planning for our National Guard Teen Adventure Training Camp for next summer. If you did not come the last 2 years, you might want to look into coming this year. If you did come and you have any ideas for next summer let me know.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"May the sun shine upon you, may the wind be at your back, may the road rise up to meet you, and may whoever you call God, hold you in the palm of his hand and smile down upon you." Anonymous